ACTIVITIES

1) **Read the article. For questions 1–14, use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.**

Moments we'd rather forget

Everyone has faced one or two embarrassing moments in their lives that left them blushing, but I'd guess the average person hasn't experienced quite as many as me. I've decided to recount my tales of embarrassment here to help remind us all that these things happen to everyone.

A: My first major embarrassment happened when I was around 13 years old. It was a beautiful Sunday and my mother was making the dinner when we heard panic in the kitchen. She'd forgotten to buy an **(1)** _____ (**ESSENCE)** ingredient, so my father and I came to the rescue and offered to rush to the supermarket before it closed. With my father in the driver's seat we quickly stopped outside the shop and I ran inside to get the missing item. I darted around the store, paid and rushed back into the car, yelling "Victory!" only to realise that it wasn't my dad or my dad's car, and I was shouting at a complete **(2)** _____ **(STRANGE).** Even today I remember how embarrassed I felt. I offered a shy **(3)** _____ **(APOLOGISE)** and got out very red-faced.

B: I thought it was **(4)** _____ **(POSSIBLE)** for anything to embarrass me more, but I was very wrong. My next incident cost me both five hundred dollars! I went to the cinema with some students from my new school. I was driving them home in my new car, trying to make a good **(5)** _____ **(IMPRESS)**. I wanted to be popular in the new school and I'd recently passed my test and felt pretty **(6)** _____ **(COMPETENCE)** behind the wheel. So, when I went to drop the first student off at his home after the film, I thought I'd show off my skills by speedily reversing into a parking space. The problem was, I'd misjudged my speed, and I smashed into the parked car behind me. To make matters worse, the car turned out to belong to his father, who was soon storming out of their house to confront me. We were all so shocked, and that was the end of my attempt at **(7)** _____ **(POPULAR)**. The student was really angry, and I had to pay his father for the repairs!

C: I was sure my luck would change when I went to university. I studied hard but I had to work evenings to have enough money for rent. This wasn't a **(8)** _____ **(DISTRACT)** from my studies though. It helped me switch off. I was cleaning offices after the staff went home, so it gave me an opportunity to put my headphones on and dance along to my favourite bands while cleaning, so it was really like a free gym in some ways! However, one night while I was cleaning and really getting into the music, I turned around to face see a conference room of twenty people all staring at me, and my moves, through the glass wall of the room! They saw the funny side though and gave me a round of applause for my moves as I shuffled off looking **(9)** _____ **(FRIGHT)**.

D: When I finished university, I had lots of interviews aiming to be a reporter. It was on one of those interviews that I think I reached a new low of embarrassment. I was dressed and ready to go to the interview a little earlier than needed, so I decided to walk. Why not? The weather was **(10)** _____ **(DELIGHT)** that day. Surely, I'd get there in the perfect mood... and I would have if the top of my shoe hadn't come away from the sole. It was curling my toes around them to keep the parts together, but I ended up in the town centre doing the most bizarre walk. The streets were busy, and I was quite a source of **(11)** _____ **(AMUSE)** for passers-by, who kept giving me funny looks. The shoe was getting worse and I couldn't see anywhere to buy a new pair. In the end, I put the shoe in the bin and walked along with one bare foot! Fortunately, I managed to get hold of a pair of shoes before the interview, but I stumbled through the meeting – I couldn't get over what had happened.

E: Even today, there has been no **(12)** _____ **(IMPROVE)** in the disasters I get into. Like any busy office worker, I like to get up early and go jogging, with my rock music playing through my headphones to **(13)** _____ **(ENERGY)** me. But this morning I found myself lost in the music. I had no awareness that another jogger was approaching from behind me, and when I saw this figure out of the corner of my eye, I got a fright. So much so, that I fell and landed in a hedge! The other jogger stopped and came to my aid, and we got talking. Well, this embarrassing story has a happy ending. We found out we've got a lot in common, and we're going to go jogging together in future. So,

you never know, perhaps the most of embarrassing of situations can lead to something **(14)** _____ **(WONDER)**, like a new friend.

2) Read the text again. For questions 15-22, choose from paragraphs (A-E). The paragraphs may be chosen more than once.

Which text mentions …

15 … overconfidence in abilities? _____

16 … the assistance of a stranger? _____

17 … stares by the public? _____

18 … a favour that went wrong? _____

19 … an attempt to hide a problem? _____

20 … being the object of entertainment? _____

21 … an unforgiving family? _____

22 ... an embarrassing event that turned out well? _____

3) Classify the words that have been underlined

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	WORD	PART OF SPEECH